

The following samples were collected from the JFK Library, rooms/areas:

- M04C
- M04D
- M04E
- U02B
- U02C
- U06

## LABORATORY REPORT

**TO:** Chad Johnson  
EWU, EH+S  
002 Martin Hall  
Cheney, WA 99004

**PHONE:** (509) 359-6455 **FAX:** (509) 359-4690 **E-MAIL:** djohnson@ewu.edu  
**SUBJECT:** Particle Identification  
**SPECIMEN:** Two Sets of Tapelifts  
**REFERENCE:** JFK

### INTRODUCTION

Two sets of three tapelifts each were received for analysis. The represented surfaces in Suite U and Suite M respectively. No specific concern was mentioned.

TAPELIFTS
U02B, 2/1/2018
U02C, 2/1/2018
U06, 2/1/2018
M04C, 2/1/2018
M04D, 2/1/2018
M04E, 2/1/2018

The tapelifts were placed on clean microscope slides and immersed in acetone for about two hours and then removed. The slides with the tapelifts were rinsed with clean acetone as they were removed from the immersion tank. The tapelifts were allowed to dry for twenty minutes in a laminar flow Clean Work Station and then mounted using a synthetic resin (Shurmount). The completed mounts were analyzed using analytical light microscopy. The materials identified are listed in decreasing order of frequency, the most common materials first. The significance of a material's location in the list is not necessarily related to its health impact because some materials have a greater health impact at low levels than other materials do at high levels.

### RESULTS

The tapelifts from Suite U contained paper fiber, clothing fiber, skin flakes, natural minerals, pollen, starch, feather barbules, glass fiber, insect debris, plant parts, charred wood, green dry-erase ink, dog dander, mite frass, paint spheres, fungal spores, and cosmetics. There were 14, 21, and 24 short glass fibers and 1, 4, and 0 glass fibers longer than five hundred micrometers per square inch on tapelifts U02B, U02C, and U06 respectively. Most of the glass fibers were from acoustic ceiling tile though the longer glass fibers were from glass fiber thermal insulation material. The presence of glass fiber in the environment tends to increase sensitivity to allergens. Pine pollen and mite frass were the two most potent allergens in this set of tapelifts. Health complaints are associated with 13 or

more short glass fibers and/or 4 or more glass fibers longer than five hundred micrometers per square inch.

The tapelifts from Suite M contained paper fiber, clothing fiber, skin flakes, natural minerals, starch, pollen, glass fiber, feather barbules, tire wear, insect debris, plant parts, charred wood, dog dander, blue stained plant material, fungal spores, and magnetite spheres. There were 444, 26, and 456 short glass fibers and 0, 0, and 2 glass fibers longer than five hundred micrometers per square inch on tapelifts M04C, M04D, and M04E respectively. Most of the glass fibers were from acoustic ceiling tile though the two longer glass fibers were from glass fiber thermal insulation material.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The surfaces in both areas had elevated levels of glass fiber from acoustic ceiling tile. That was particularly the case in Suite M. Suite U contained mite frass. Mite frass was not seen in Suite M.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service. If I can provide any further assistance please contact me.

Signed:           *Russ Crutcher*            
          E. R. Crutcher, Consultant